

## **CHAPTER 18**

### **HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL**

#### **ARTICLE II. HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL**

##### **Sec. 18-31. Established.**

There is established a human relations council.

##### **Sec. 18-32. Membership; terms of office; ex-officio members; compensation.**

The human relations council shall consist of nine members. The Board of Commissioners shall appoint members from a list of qualified applicants who have submitted an advisory board application. Members shall be residents of the Town with the exception of a minimum of one member and a maximum of three members residing outside the corporate limits. In addition, every effort shall be made to appoint representatives from all segments of the community, so that the membership will be as diverse as possible. Members shall serve three-year staggered terms with three members to be appointed or reappointed each year. No member shall serve more than two full three-year consecutive terms. Once a member has served two full consecutive terms, the member must be off the human relations council for a minimum of one year before being eligible to serve again. If any member shall fail to attend three consecutive meetings or more than half of the meetings in one calendar year without just cause, then they shall be replaced by the Board of Commissioners. Any vacancy that occurs during a term shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Board of Commissioners. An unexpired term or a term of less than three years shall not count towards the term limit provision. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, all members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners shall appoint one elected official as an ex-officio member. The Town Manager shall appoint one member of the Town staff as an ex-officio member. Members shall receive no compensation for their services.

##### **Sec. 18-33. Organization; meetings; quorum; votes.**

(a) The human relations council shall meet for the purpose of organization as soon as reasonably possible after January 1 of each year. The human relations council shall elect its own officers who shall include a chairman and vice-chairman. The role of secretary shall be filled by the Town staff member appointed as ex-officio. The members shall propose bylaws for the transaction of business subject to the approval of such bylaws by the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the bylaws shall be filed with the Town Clerk and shall constitute a public record.

(b) The human relations council is a public body and shall meet on a regular basis but not less than quarterly. A special meeting may be called by the chairman, vice-chairman or three members of the human relations council. All meetings shall be held in accordance with G.S. 143-318.9 et seq. Minutes shall be kept by the secretary and filed with the Town Clerk.

(c) A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members currently appointed. No proxies shall be allowed.

#### **Sec. 18-34. Duties.**

The duties of the human relations council are as follows:

- (1) To encourage understanding and good will between all citizens regardless of race, sex, religion, creed, family status, disability, nationality or economic status, and thus promote the general welfare of the town;
- (2) To report to and recommend to the Board of Commissioners measures to promote the welfare of the town;
- (3) To identify concerns within the town which could jeopardize the welfare of the town;
- (4) To act as an impartial public forum so there will be better communications between all segments of the town;
- (5) To promote peace, understanding, respect, good will and harmony among all town citizens;
- (6) To hold its meetings in various locations of the town to promote good relations in all areas and to afford as many citizens as possible the opportunity to attend such meetings;
- (7) To sponsor meetings and forums intended to lead all citizens to a clearer understanding of the true meaning of responsible citizenship in the town, of the obligations inherent in being a good citizen and of the need for mutual understanding and respect by all citizens for each other.

#### **Sec. 18-35. Authority.**

The human relations council has no special authority.

#### **Sec. 18-36. Reports.**

The human relations council shall cause an annual report to be prepared and presented to the Board of Commissioners by October 1. The report shall include accomplishments of the past fiscal year and goals for the next fiscal year. Form and content of the report shall be determined by the human relations council, subject to the right of the Board of Commissioners to require additional information. Special reports and recommendations may be made to the Board of Commissioners as the need arises in the judgement of the human relations council or at the specific request of the Board of Commissioners.